

Research for Better Schools (RBS)

Goal Area: Improving Teacher Knowledge

Brief Summary: Research for Better Schools (RBS) has operated the Mid-Atlantic Eisenhower Regional Consortium for Mathematics and Science Education since 1992, serving Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia schools.

Purpose: The focus of the Eisenhower Consortium program is on the U.S. Department of Education's priority of providing intensive professional development and technical assistance to educators based on effective mathematics and science curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices.

Accomplishments/Results: Three kinds of in-person services are offered – professional development workshops for teachers and administrators, regional and state leadership conferences, and intensive technical assistance to individual schools. In addition, resources are delivered through four large-scale media – the *Currents* print newsletter to all schools, electronic media including the *Riptides* e-mail newsletter and an extensive Website, dissemination of R&D resource products, and Eisenhower technology access centers. Examples of specific services are given below. The Consortia activities have been extensively evaluated; reports are available by request.

1. Learning How to Use Lesson Study: RBS and TERC co-sponsored the conference *Lesson Study: Collaborative Teacher-Led Professional Development Focused on Student Thinking* from November 20 to 22, 2002. Patsy Wang-Iverson, RBS' Senior Scientist, developed the program for the conference in partnership with Makoto Yoshida, President of Global Education Resources. The conference was held in Stamford, CT, where 120 participants met for three days of seminars, workshops, and lesson observation intended to increase their knowledge of lesson study and help them develop clear plans to implement and sustain lesson study in their schools and districts.

2. Using Technology in the Mathematics and Science Classroom: RBS sponsored the conference *Technology in Mathematics and Science*, held in State College, PA from February 24 to 25, 2003. This conference, developed by Janie Zimmer, RBS' Senior Mathematics Specialist, and attended by nearly 200 participants, offered two days of sessions and keynote addresses on the use of technology in the classroom. Participants worked on topics including digital classrooms, graphic calculators, online course development, probes, and NASA distance learning.

3. IMAGES, Professional Development in Elementary Geometry: RBS will again offer a summer institute on Improving Measurement and Geometry in Elementary institute. Planned for July 16-18, 2003 in Harrisburg, PA, this intensive three-day training will focus on geometry linked to state standards. In addition to expanding participants' skills and knowledge, the IMAGES institutes are training-of-trainers events--preparing participants for leadership roles in assisting other teachers, so that together they can raise students' achievement through standards-based instruction. The IMAGES handbook is also now available through RBS Publications, and can be ordered at <http://www.rbs.org/catalog/pubs/cm56.shtml>.

4. RBS Currents focuses on NCLB: The spring/summer issue of *RBS Currents*, provides an overview of the expectations of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), as well as ideas for how best to meet them. It includes information about the new Institute of Education Sciences, which will support education research, as well as resources available on NCLB. Other articles focus on how educators in the Mid-Atlantic States are working to meet the needs of the changing education environment and advance student achievement. Contact RBS for copies or read the online version at www.rbs.org.

Plans: These activities will continue through the next year, with increasing emphasis on NCLB.

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